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CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1945

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Members of the Public Health Committee

Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON

Vice-Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR JOS. HAMPTON

MR. COUNCILLOR A. BAILEY

MR. COUNCILLOR A. E. BEDDOW, M.C., M.B.E.

MR. COUNCILLOR F. HURMSON, J.P.

MR. COUNCILLOR J. JAMES

MR. COUNCILLOR F. ROWLEY

MR. COUNCILLOR T. WHITEHOUSE

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee

Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON

Vice-Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR JOS. HAMPTON

All the members of the Public Health Committee, with the following co-opted Members:—

Mrs. A. Hudson

Mrs. C. Hotchkiss

Mrs. W. Ingham

Mrs. L. Cater

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : W. F. GAPPER, B.Sc., M.B.,
Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer : P. S. WARREN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon : G. WILLIAMSON, L.D.S.

Dental Attendant : MRS. N. T. BUTLER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Shops Act Inspector : FRED TURNER,
C.R.S.I., Certificate of Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : JOSEPH BALL, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitors

MRS. D. ROBINSON, C.M.B., State Registered Nurse.

MISS F. M. NIXON, C.M.B., Health Visitor's Certificate, S.R.N.
(Resigned July 1945)

Part-Time Officers

Oculist : G. F. HAYCRAFT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Orthopaedic Surgeon : ERNEST A. FREEMAN, F.R.C.S., M.B., B.S.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon : W. L. THOMAS, F.R.C.S., D.L.O.

Orthopaedic Masseuse : MISS F. M. BARNES, C.S.M.M.G.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my tenth Annual Report on the health of your district for the year 1945.

The Birth Rate was less than in the previous year, and also the Death Rate at all ages. The Infant Mortality Rate is the lowest ever recorded for the district, being 37.91 compared with the lowest previous record of 44.27 in 1943. The Maternal Mortality Rate was much lower than that of the previous year but higher than the Rate for England and Wales.

The shortage of staff has caused much difficulty in carrying out the Mother and Child Welfare work satisfactorily. There should be four qualified Health Visitors on the staff, but at one time there was only one, and later a qualified Nurse without a Health Visitor's Certificate was appointed. This condition existed at the end of the year.

The Council has considered various schemes and additions to improve the Maternity and Child Welfare Service, and when conditions allow such plans to be put into operation this service will be extended.

There was an outbreak of Measles in the early months of the year which reached its peak in early March. Otherwise the health of the people, speaking generally, has been well maintained.

As in most other areas, the major problem for the Council is Housing. Though this area escaped damage to houses by enemy action throughout the war, there is a great shortage of houses. The overcrowding and unsatisfactory living condition which exist call for an extensive and urgent development in the housing programme.

I wish to express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Council, and particularly to the Chairman and members of the Public Health and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, for your help and interest throughout the year. I am grateful to the members of the staffs of the various Council departments for their co-operation and assistance, and particularly to my own staff, including Mr. Turner and his staff for their loyal support and service. I wish to record my thanks to the volunteers at our Welfare Clinics, the Medical Practitioners, Midwives, District Nurses and voluntary organisations for their friendly co-operation and help.

I am, Your obedient servant,

W. F. GAPPER,

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Area of the district (excluding area covered by water)	acres	8,155
Total Population at all ages at 1931 Census ...		35,300
Registrar-General's estimate of population to middle of the year		38,060
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1946	£	158,395
Product of Penny Rate	£	620
Nett Births		782
Birth Rate (live and still-births) per 1,000 of estimated population		20.55
Nett Deaths allocated to the district:—		
Under one year of age		29
At all ages		368
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) ...		37.91
Death Rate (at all ages)		9.67
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of year		9,651
Amount Paid in Poor Law Relief:—		
Cannock District	£	2,801 0 0
Hednesford District	£	2,768 8 11

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Unemployment figures for the year showed very little unemployment. The quarterly figures were as follows:—

Date	MALES				FEMALES.			
	Age Groups 21-64	18-20	16-17	14-15	21-59	18-20	16-17	14-15
16.4.45.	56	2	3	2	25	1	3	3
11.6.45.	63	2	2	—	37	—	—	—
17.9.45.	42	2	1	—	18	—	—	—
10.12.45.	79	3	1	—	53	3	3	—

The above figures include some resident in the Cannock Rural District.

The amounts paid in Poor Law Relief were mainly paid in cases of sickness. There was an increase in the amount paid in the Cannock area, but a slight decrease in the Hednesford area, compared with those paid in the previous year.

Due to the shortage of houses there were numerous houses accommodating more than one family. Though there were several houses which became overcrowded and the overcrowding was abated, there were many more where the houses were not legally overcrowded but living and sleeping arrangements were far from satisfactory.

Other amenities lacking in the district which would assist in the social conditions of the area are publicly owned halls and rooms available to the public for educational and recreational activities. The Council might well consider co-operation with other bodies in the erection of such buildings as soon as conditions will allow this work to proceed, as it would contribute to the mental and physical well-being of the residents.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

The natural increase of population shown as excess of births over deaths is 397. The Registrar-General's estimate of population for the middle of the year is less by 10 than that of the previous year.

			Total	M	F
Live Births, legitimate	...	...	713	380	333
Live Births, illegitimate	...	...	52	27	25
Still Births, legitimate	...	...	16	10	6
Still Births, illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (live and still births)	...	...	...	...	20.1
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (live births)					18.73
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (live births)					16.1
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (still births)					0.46
Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population (still births)	...				0.45

			Total	M	F
Total Deaths	...	...	368	192	176
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	9.67
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	11.4

Area Comparability Factors have been suspended for the time being.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

				Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)	
			Deaths	Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	—	0.49
Others	...	...	2	2.61	1.3
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...		2	2.61	1.79

INFANT MORTALITY

		Actual Deaths	Cannock Rate	England & Wales Rate
Deaths under one year of age :—				
All infants per 1,000 live births		29	37.91	46
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...		27	37.87	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...		2	38.46	—

DEATHS AT ALL AGES

DEATHS AT ALL AGES					Rate per 1,000 of estimated population		
					Deaths	Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Cancer	...	...	...	...	55	1.45	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	4	0.11	0.02
Whooping Cough			...	...	0.00	0.00	0.02
Scarlet Fever			...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria			...	...	1	0.03	0.02
Influenza			...	...	1	0.03	0.08
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) per 1,000 live births					4	0.11	5.6

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

There were no changes in the Health Services, which functioned as in the past years.

WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS

Ante-Natal Visits :—

Primary	...	...	...	...	31
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	18
Primary visits to infants	...	...	...	...	721
Re-visits to infants	...	...	...	...	2,645
Re-visits to infants according to age :—					
Under one year	...	...	...	...	911
One to two years	...	...	...	...	548
Two to three years	...	...	440	...	
Three to four years	...	...	404	...	
Four to five years	...	...	342	...	
					1,186

Ophthalmia :—

Primary	...	...	...	...	2
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	0
Special visits	...	...	...	...	90

WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Sessions held	Primary Attendances of Infants		Total Attendances	
		Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years
Cannock	48	119	16	1,734	583
Hednesford	48	129	9	1,863	638
Chadsmoor	48	140	10	2,210	414
Heath Hayes	38	73	5	883	244
Totals	182	461	40	6,690	1,879

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Three Ante-Natal Clinics are now held; one at Hednesford every Thursday morning, one at Cannock and another at Chadsmoor on alternate Friday mornings.

	Hednesford	Chadsmoor	Cannock	Total
Primary Attendances ...	239	147	127	513
Re-attendances ...	728	482	378	1,588
Post-Natal ...	15	2	2	19
Total Attendances ...	967	629	505	2,101
No. of Sessions ...	48	26	26	100
Average No. per Session	20	24	19	21
No. of Cases referred to Consultant ...	11	12	16	39
No. of Ante-Natal cases referred to Consultant by Private Practitioners ...	—	—	—	21
Patients showing abnormalities ...	62	56	66	184

The Dentist holds one special session per week for expectant and nursing mothers, on Tuesday afternoons.

The Dentist reports :—

104 new patients were seen at the special clinic for mothers. 325 total visits were made, of which 75 were purely for examination and advice.

TREATMENT GIVEN

Extractions ...	489
General Anaesthetics given ...	61
Scaling ...	23
Sundry Operations ...	32
Patients fitted with dentures ...	18
Repairs ...	3
Visits for construction of Dentures and Repairs ...	113

Pre-school children referred to the Dentist by Medical Officers and Health Visitors are examined and treated if necessary, at sessions held by him on Saturday mornings.

He reports :—

24 pre-school children attended, when the following work was carried out :—

Extractions ...	38
General Anaesthetics ...	4
Other operations ...	10
Advice to parents ...	4

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION

Four children were on the register at the end of the year. A total of 16 visits were made. Two new cases were admitted to the register, both of whom returned later to their parents. Two, who were on the register at the beginning of the year, attained the age of nine. No adverse reports were received on any of the children or the homes visited.

BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN

Two visits were paid to children at the request of the Public Assistance Authority, and five for the Education Authority.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Two cases were notified and both were removed to hospital and recovered satisfactorily.

All cases needing institutional treatment are admitted to the Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were two fatal cases with a maternal mortality of 2.61, compared with 1.79 for England and Wales.

Both were aged 32 and were admitted to hospital, where in both cases Caesarean Section was performed.

One case returned home but died suddenly from Pulmonary Embolism. The other case died in hospital from paralytic ileus.

INFANT MORTALITY

The main causes of death of children under one year of age were: Premature birth, 9; Congenital malformations and birth injuries, 8; Pneumonia, 4; Bronchitis, 2; and Measles 2.

The Birth Rates, Infant Mortality Rates (I.M.R.) and Maternal Mortality Rates (M.M.R.) for the past ten years were as follow:—

Year	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Birth Rates	17.7	19.1	18.02	16.6	18.4	19.3	21.44	21.15	21.38	20.55
I.M. Rates	83.8	54.3	58.9	63.5	65.9	75.4	52.0	44.27	54.23	37.91
M.M. Rates	1.4	4.1	4.3	3.0	2.16	1.27	8.75	1.27	6.14	2.61

Great progress has been made in reducing the Infant Mortality Rate, being less than half what it was ten years ago. The Maternal Mortality Rate is still unsatisfactory in spite of the excellent work carried out by the Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton, by arrangement, for this authority.

PREMATURE CHILDREN

From the records kept of all children whose birth weight is $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds or under, there were 27 premature babies born in the area, of which 21 were born at home, three in nursing homes and three at the Public Assistance Institution. Four of these premature babies died within the first twenty-four hours, one died within the first month, while 22 survived after the first month.

Arrangements have been made with the Walsall authority for admitting premature children, if necessary, to their hospital.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

In conjunction with other authorities, arrangements have been made with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare to deal with illegitimate children and their mothers. From a report received from the Association for the year ending March 31st, 1946, eighteen cases were dealt with in this district, though they were not all residents of this district. Thirteen babies were placed with their mothers, three for adoption, one with a foster mother, while one mother was waiting for confinement.

There was a sharp rise in the number of illegitimate births during this year. The following is a table showing the number of illegitimate births during the past ten years :—

Year	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Illeg. Births	16	24	14	18	30	26	29	36	35	53

The following table shows illegitimate births over quinquennial periods since 1911 :—

Period	1911-15	1916-20	1921-25	1926-30	1931-35	1936-40	1941-45
Average Illeg. Births per Yr.	30	37.6	31	29.6	23.6	20.4	35.8

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Two cases were notified, one of whom was admitted to hospital and the other treated at home. Both recovered without any damage to their eyes.

TREATMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

243 children were referred to special clinics and attended as follows: Ophthalmic, 15; Orthopaedic, 166; Ear, Nose and Throat, 38, including six for operation; Dental, 24. The orthopaedic cases include those sent for actinotherapy.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES

The three Nurseries continued to function very satisfactorily throughout the year. All the children were examined periodically and undoubtedly received much benefit by attending the nurseries.

All the probationers trained, and who entered for the Nursery Nurses' Certificate since the opening of the nurseries obtained their certificates. Arrangements were being made at the end of the year to transfer the nurseries to the County Education Authority as nursery schools, and at the time of writing this report all nurseries have been established as nursery schools.

SECTION C—Sanitary Circumstances

WATER

The South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. supply water to all dwellings, factories, etc., in the area, with the following exceptions :

Three houses obtain water from wells.

Three houses are without internal water supply and receive their water supply from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. from a stand-pipe.

Fourteen houses obtain water from a nearby colliery.

Ten samples of water were submitted during the year for chemical and bacteriological examination. One sample of spring water and one from a well showed sewage pollution. Three of the six samples from a private supply showed evidence of remote sewage pollution. Persons using the unsatisfactory supplies were warned to boil the water for drinking and culinary purposes. Suppliers of the private supply were consulted and they were prepared to consider a supply from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co.

A monthly report is received from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. on the water supplied to this area.

The following is a typical report on the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co's supply :—

CHEMICAL :—					PARTS PER
					100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F ...	...	...	...	...	28.5
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen ...	...	...	...	...	0.60
Chlorine ...	...	...	...	...	3.2
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F ...	...	...	...	...	0.003
Appearance ...	...	...	...	...	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination ...	...	...	...	...	None
pH Value ...	...	...	...	...	7.4
Temporary Hardness ...	...	...	...	...	6.89
Permanent Hardness ...	...	...	...	...	7.11

BACTERIOLOGICAL :—

COUNT.	On nutrient agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°C	... ..	9 colonies per ml.
	On nutrient agar after 72 hours incubation at 20°—22°C	... ..	13 colonies per ml.
	Coli Aerogenes content (pre- sumptive coli) after 48 hours incubation at 37°C	... ..	Nil per 100 ml.

No local water showed any signs of plumbo solvency.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Tests were carried out on the efficiency of the sewerage works at Cannock throughout the year. Such tests are to be continued, and if the works are found to be unable to cope with the possible increase of sewerage in the district, the Council will consider the necessary steps to be taken.

930 lin. yards of foul water sewers and 100 lin. yards of storm water sewers have been laid during the past year.

A sanitary survey was made during the year of the areas in which there are no sewers and where the majority of the houses are drained into cesspools :—

There were 305 dwelling houses and 9 other buildings inspected. 1,190 persons occupied the dwelling houses. There were 200 water closets, 156 pail closets, 5 chemical closets, 4 Privies, 5 Urinals and 179 cesspools. 230 houses were drained to cesspools, 10 to a private sewage disposal works, 21 to watercourses, 32 to land, 2 to a pool and one to a septic tank. 283 of the houses were supplied with water by the South Staffs. Waterworks, 10 from a private supply, three from wells.

Where the houses drain to watercourses and land no crude sewage is drained as pail closets are in use.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

19 samples of river water were submitted for chemical analysis. Four were unsatisfactory which were taken from streams into which effluents were discharging from Sewage Disposal Works. The Authorities concerned were notified and more satisfactory results were obtained.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

	End of 1944	End of 1945
Water Closets	10,713	10,740
Waste Water Closets ...	27	14
Dustbins	9,487	9,488
Privies	8	5
Privy Ashpits	3	2
Privy Pans	155	156
Cesspools (for 231 houses)	—	180

OFFICES

29 offices were inspected, the sanitary accommodation of which were found to be satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES

There are two camping sites within the area. One is situated at Beaudesert Park and the other at Hayfield Hill, Cannock Wood.

These camping sites were found to be clean and satisfactory, with a satisfactory water supply and sanitary accommodation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The work is carried out by the Council's workmen under the control of the Surveyor.

The Surveyor has kindly submitted the following report on the tips in use, with the approximate extent of tipping space:—

Heath Hayes.—May last nine months.

Wimblebury.—Finished; soiling up now proceeding.

Littleworth Clayhole.—Water now removed, more extensive tipping now possible; fairly long life.

Hednesford Park.—Four months.

Brindley Heath (West Cannock).—Additional land taken over; will last 12 months.

Green Heath Road.—Practically complete except for soiling up.

Princess Street.—Six months.

It is obvious that further tipping sites must be acquired at an early date, as the only site available by the middle of 1947 will be the Littleworth Clayhole.

SCABIES AND VERMINOUS PERSONS

All cases of scabies or verminous persons found by routine inspections at schools, home visiting by Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors or by reports from individual persons were treated at home after advice regarding treatment or by members of the staff at the cleansing stations at Cannock, Chads Moor and Hednesford. 54 school children, 11 adults and 8 pre-school children were treated with Benzyl Benzoate for scabies. Those found infested with lice were treated by cleansing and the application of lethane oil. Infested houses and clothing were dealt with by the staff of the Sanitary department as reported in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

1.—THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

Inspection of Dwelling Houses :—

	(1) Housing Inspections	...	...	...	9
	(2) District Inspections	...	...	...	354 ¹
Inspection of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	126
„ „ Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	50
„ „ Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	244
„ „ Dairies	...	...	...	...	257
„ „ Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	39
„ „ Milk Bars	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ Milk Floats	...	...	...	...	85
„ „ Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	31
„ „ Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	42
„ „ Shops	...	...	...	...	168
„ „ Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	940
„ „ Grocers Shops	...	...	...	...	573
„ „ Meat Distribution Centre	...	...	...	...	215
„ „ Markets	...	...	...	...	298
„ „ Factories	...	...	...	...	78
„ „ “Knacker's Yard”	...	...	...	...	72
„ „ School Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	24
„ „ Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	49
„ „ Works for abatement of nuisances	...	...	...	...	1743
„ „ Works for abatement of housing repairs	...	...	...	...	49 ¹

„	„	Complaints investigated	...	...	...	151
„	„	Cinemas	...	...	...	9
„	„	Water Courses	...	...	...	42
„	„	Tips	...	...	...	15
„	„	Living Vans	...	...	...	11
„	„	Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	10
„	„	Pit-Head Baths	...	...	...	5
„	„	Canal Boats—Wharves	...	...	...	35
„	„	School Air-Raid Shelters	...	...	...	19
„	„	Camping Grounds	...	...	...	15
„	„	Mortuaries	...	...	...	15
„	„	Making-up Rooms (Food)	...	...	...	250
„	„	Ministry of Food Depots	...	...	...	40
„	„	Canteens	...	...	...	17
„	„	Premises under Rats & Mice Destruction Act	...	...	...	278
„	„	Fishmongers	...	...	...	97
„	„	Meat Stalls	...	...	...	245
„	„	Offices	...	...	...	29

2.—THE NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	560
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 44	...	...	...	...	...	3
„	„	„	„	„	93	75
„	Housing Act, 1936, Section 66	...	...	...	...	34

3.—RESULTS OF SERVICE

Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	412
Notices not complied with	...	...	...	...	...	20

SECTION D—Housing

One house was built by private enterprise.

FITNESS OF HOUSES

Nine houses were inspected, all of which were damp but clean and not overcrowded.

The number of persons per house was 4.11 with 1.29 rooms per person, or 37 persons to 48 rooms (20 living rooms and 28 sleeping rooms).

Further statistics are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

OVERCROWDING

No. of cases on books at end of year	...	...	...	...	55
No. of cases dealt with	...	...	...	...	77
No. of overcrowded cases abated—					
From Council Houses	...	...	...	...	3
From Private Houses	...	...	...	...	19
No. of new cases reported to the Medical Officer of Health during 1945	...	...	...	...	46

SECTION E—Inspection and Supervision of Food

Details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F—Infectious Diseases

DIPHTHERIA

20 cases were notified, compared with 42 in the previous year and 82 in 1943.

There was one fatal case which had not been immunised. 19 cases of clinical diphtheria were removed to hospital.

During the year 497 children under five and 25 children between five and fifteen were immunised. In addition, several cases were re-immunised which were found to be Schick-positive. Children immunised when they were about one year old received one injection before starting school.

SCARLET FEVER

49 cases were notified, compared with 108 in the previous year. 20 were removed to hospital and there were no fatal cases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS

One case was notified, an adult, who was removed to hospital and died from Lobar Pneumonia.

ENTERIC FEVER

No cases of enteric fever were notified.

PNEUMONIA

11 cases of primary pneumonia were notified. There were 19 deaths from all types of pneumonia.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Measles was prevalent in the early part of the year. 750 cases of measles were notified, with four fatal cases.

There were 28 cases of Whooping Cough, with none fatal.

CANCER

There were 55 deaths from Cancer, 9 less than in the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES NOTIFIED				Total	DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	1
1—5	...	1	1	1	3	...	1	...	...	1
5—15	1	...	1	2	4	...	...	...	1	1
15—25	4	2	1	1	8	2	3	...	3	8
25—35	4	2	...	...	6	3	2	...	...	5
35—45	4	1	...	...	5	3	1	...	...	4
45—55	4	2	...	...	6	...	1	...	...	1
55—65	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	2
65 & up	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	..
Total	17	8	5	4	34	10	9	..	4	23

There were 19 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, four more than in the previous year, and four from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, an increase of one over the previous year. One more male pulmonary but six less females were notified than in the previous year, while there were the same number of males and two less female non-pulmonary cases.

The Health Visitors paid 22 primary and 251 re-visits.

Notices of admissions to Institutions were received as follows :

Groundslow Sanatorium	...	...	...	2
Prestwood Sanatorium	...	...	...	7
Himley Sanatorium	...	...	...	4
Standon Hall Sanatorium	...	...	...	3
Hartshill Sanatorium	...	...	...	2

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1945

	Males	Females
1. Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	1
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	10	9
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	4
8. Syphilitic	—	—
9. Influenza	1	—
10. Measles	2	2
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	1	—
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph (M) Uterus (F)	9	6
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	7	6
15. Cancer of Breast	—	4
16. Cancer of all other sites	9	14
17. Diabetes	3	4
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	15	16
19. Heart Disease	35	29
20. Other diseases of Circ. System	17	14
21. Bronchitis	7	9
22. Pneumonia	14	5
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	3
26. Appendicitis	2	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases	5	7
28. Nephritis	3	2
29. Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis	—	—
30. Other Maternal causes	—	2
31. Premature Births	6	3
32. Congenital Malformation, birth inj., infant dis.	4	4
33. Suicide	—	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	1
35. Other Violent Causes	8	—
36. All other causes	28	25
Totals	192	176

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
Committee*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you a report of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1945.

NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH

Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals	93
Insufficient water closets and drains	212
Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter ...	13
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	25
Dirty dwelling houses	20
Dwelling houses needing repairs	227
Dwelling houses overcrowded	46
Number of nuisances and other matters reported during the year	562
Number of Notices served	560
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 93, P.H.A., 1936	75
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 44, P.H.A., 1936	3
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 66, P.H.A., 1936	34
An ignited accumulation or deposit of refuse from a Coal Mine which is prejudicial to health or a nuisance ...	2

PRINCIPAL STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

- 13 Water Closets substituted for 13 Waste Water Closets.
- 2 Water Closets substituted for 2 Privies.
- 1 Privy dispensed with.
- 2 Water Closets substituted for 2 Pail Closets.
- 2 Additional Water Closets provided.
- 481 Dustbins substituted for worn-out dustbins.
- 210 Water Closets put in order.
- 53 New Water Closet pans.
- 24 New Water Closet seats.
- 28 New Water Closet flushing cisterns.
- 50 Water Closet flushing cisterns repaired.
- 53 Choked drains opened.
- 10 Choked Water Closets opened.
- 143 yds. of new Drains laid on 14 premises.
- 18 Drains repaired.
- 1 Open channel drain dispensed with.
- 1 Cesspool reconstructed.
- 1 Cesspool dispensed with.
- 2 New covers to cesspools.
- 2 Drains ventilated.
- 8 Drains ventilating shafts repaired.
- 1 New connection to sewer.
- 1 New gully provided.
- 3 New grids provided to gullies.
- 5 New inspection chambers.
- 3 New inspection chamber covers provided.
- 2 Inspection chambers rebuilt.
- 6 New Sanitary Pans provided for 6 worn-out pans.
- 6 New Water Cisterns provided.
- 10 Water Cisterns repaired.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Improvements were carried out to sanitary accommodation at 15 different properties. The sanitary state of the area is in a very favourable condition. The number of privies now left in the area is only five. Two of these are on properties which have been dealt with by the way of Slum Clearance, and the remaining three are in a part of the area in which there is no sewer.

During the year 481 dustbins have been supplied under the Council's Dustbin Scheme to replace worn-out bins. The supply of dustbins has not improved considerably; it is still necessary to obtain a licence from the Ministry of Health and there is often a long waiting period between the time of placing the official order and the delivery of the bins.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

These premises are situated in various parts of the area and they are frequently inspected. Some of these conveniences are becoming very obsolete and it will be necessary at some future date for the Council to take into consideration the question of providing more up-to-date conveniences. The Council employ a workman to visit these places daily for the purpose of washing and cleaning. The workman who carries out this work has done his duties very satisfactorily.

SCHOOL SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

All the conveniences at the Schools are of a modern type. Frequent inspections are made, and they are found to be in a clean condition.

All defects and other matters found are reported to the Director of Education.

AIR-RAID SHELTERS

These premises are visited frequently. The sanitary accommodation consists of chemical closets. It is often found that the floors and seats of the conveniences are fouled and in many cases damage is done. The workman employed by the Council cleans these premises frequently.

SCHOOL AIR-RAID SHELTERS

The sanitary conveniences in these places are of a chemical closet type and they are inspected and cleansed by workmen of the Public Health (Sanitary) Department very frequently. The conditions found are favourable compared with other conveniences in the district.

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1920 TO 1939

SECTION 2 (2) ACT, 1920

Nine applications were received from tenants under the above-mentioned Acts, and each case was considered in a report submitted and six certificates were granted.

HOUSES IMPROVED

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Houses re-spouted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Houses repointed or cemented	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Quarry, brick and concrete floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New firegrates fitted or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

New wood floors and wood floor repaired	...	...	...	45
New sub-floor ventilators fixed	...	...	...	44
Windows repaired, sashcords and fasteners fitted	...	...	...	80
Doors repaired	...	...	...	6
Foodstores lighted and ventilated	...	...	...	1
Handrails fixed	...	...	...	4
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	7
New Sinks fitted or repaired	...	...	...	23
Coppers and fireboxes repaired	...	...	...	19
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	4
Burst water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	72

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	236
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	...	708
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	...	30
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	234

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	177
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	—
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	...	...	...	...	...	—
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	59
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	56
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919 INFESTATION ORDER, 1943

During the year nine block surveys were carried out and the number of premises visited was 225—these were chiefly private dwelling houses. All foul and storm water sewers were treated in these particular areas. This method is adopted where complaints have been received from occupiers. In many cases the number of rats found or seen is very small, and the cause of these small infestations is due to waste food lying about in fowl pens and pig-sties. All owners of fowls or pigs are given advice on storage of food and removal of food from pens and folds after feeding has taken place.

Visits have been made to seven Council tips. These have been examined and in certain cases small infestations have been found, and poison bait laid with satisfactory results.

Three water courses have been examined and treated, and in one case it was necessary to defer treatment owing to the water course being a boundary between two authorities. Arrangements are in hand for joint action to be taken.

The three Sewage Disposal Works in the area are visited frequently and action taken where it is found necessary.

Four agricultural premises were found to be infested with rats and in one case it was a major infestation. All these cases were reported to the War Agricultural Executive Committee.

128 Sewer manholes on the foul water system were inspected and pre-baits laid. Nine good takes and eight small takes were found. The foul and storm water sewers are treated twice a year, and I am glad to report that our sewers are in a very satisfactory condition as regards rat infestation.

Certain premises call for frequent inspection owing to the nature of the work carried on. At one particular factory where fat extraction is carried on, visits are made very frequently and it has been necessary to use Hydrogen Cyanide Gas and in certain parts of the premises arsenic has been used. In both cases the results have been very good.

During the year, on 53 separate premises not in block survey, 1,701 poison baits were laid, and 699 dead rats were found.

The Rodent Operator is fully employed and he is carrying out his work in a thorough manner.

LIVING VANS AND TENTS

Inspections are made of the various living vans and tents in the area, and in each case the premises have been found to be satisfactory as regards sanitary accommodation and water supply.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

					December, 1945
Licenced Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	25
Visits to Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	940

TOTAL — UNSOUND FOOD

						Weight lbs.
Bovines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	30
Bovines—Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2,949
Pigs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	97
Pigs—Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	590
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	4,081
Total						7,747

Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
3	9	0	19

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

The number of Slaughter-houses, Butchers' Shops and Meat Stalls in the area are as follows :—

Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	25
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	47
Meat Stalls	...	...	...	9

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, MEAT SHOPS AND MEAT VANS

The meat supply for this area is sent from the Government Slaughter-house at Walsall to a Meat Distribution Centre in Market Hall Street, Cannock. All meat and offals which are sent here are inspected on arrival, and it has been necessary on certain occasions to condemn certain offals.

No slaughter-houses have been used for the slaughtering of animals intended for human consumption since January, 1940, with the exception of pigs slaughtered for private owners and in which the carcase and organs were for their own consumption.

The slaughter-houses are kept in fairly good condition and the premises are found to be clean and ready for use at any time.

The number of meat shops in the area is the same this year as in the previous year. These premises are visited weekly and they have been found to be kept in a very clean and tidy condition.

The number of meat vans in the area is very small. These have been inspected and have been found to be used chiefly for the delivery of orders. Same were found to be clean.

Inspections have taken place in the making-up rooms, restaurants and kitchens of the various premises where food is prepared for sale, and these premises have been found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition.

There are nine meat stalls in the market places at Cannock and Hednesford. These are visited each market day, which is usually twice a week. It was necessary on one occasion to call the occupier's attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the stall. As regards the others, no complaint has been made and the premises have been found clean.

TABLE FROM CIRCULAR No. 1650

No records are kept in regard to this circular, because no slaughter-houses are used for the slaughter of animals intended for sale for human consumption.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Two new licences were granted to persons employed in the meat trade and 51 licences were renewed during the year for persons to stun animals intended for human consumption.

KNACKER'S YARD

These premises are situated in the Bridgtown Ward and are on the very extreme border of our district.

These premises are visited very frequently and have been found to be kept in a very clean and satisfactory condition. During the year improvements have been carried out to the slaughter chamber, also to the yard approaching these premises. The surface of the yard approaching has been concreted, and this gives better facilities for washing-down purposes.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE

There is only one Common Lodging House in the area. These premises are always found to be very clean.

Number of Visits 50

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE
CONTROLLED BY BY-LAWS OR REGULATIONS AND
UNDER REGULAR INSPECTION

Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Purveyors of milk from other districts selling milk in this area								39
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Meat Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Common Lodging House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78

CANAL BOATS

During the year three canal boats were inspected. These three boats had a population of six adults and four children. Two of the boats were in a satisfactory condition; one boat needed painting. A notice was served on the owner of the boat. The canal boats passing through this area on the canals chiefly carry coal from the local collieries.

MOTOR AMBULANCES

During the year 1,156 cases of sickness or accidents were removed to hospital; the number of miles registered for these journeys was 23,865, or 20.64 miles per journey.

On 105 occasions both ambulances were out at the same time.

During the year the ambulances removed 44 cases for other authorities.

FISH FRIERS

There are 55 fish friers in this area. These premises were visited frequently and they were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. Each shop has a modern or up-to-date stove.

DISINFESTATION

The number of Council houses found to be infested ...	12
The number of Council houses disinfested	12
The number of other houses found to be infested ...	16
The number of other houses disinfested	16

All these houses have been treated with an insecticidal fluid, and all bedding and soft furnishings from these houses were dealt with by means of steam disinfection. The whole of the work was carried out by the staff of the Public Health (Sanitary) Department.

STEAM DISINFECTOR

The steam disinfector at the Council's Depot was used for disinfecting 1,056 articles.

Number of days disinfector in use ...	70
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FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

ICES AND ICE CREAM

There are 46 premises registered in the area. These are made up as follows:—

- 15 premises registered to manufacture and sell ice cream.
- 31 premises registered to sell ice cream only.

During the year 12 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The bacteriological count per c.c. in the 12 samples of ice cream varied from 40,000 to over 2,000,000. Coliform organisms were present in 1/10th c.c. in five cases. In the remaining seven cases coliform organisms were present in 1/1000th c.c. Following the unsatisfactory reports on ice cream samples, all ingredients used in the making of same were submitted for examination, and it was found that some ingredients were very unsatisfactory due to large bacteriological counts. These proved to be the cause of some of the high counts of the ice cream. In one case where the results of the samples proved very unsatisfactory, the occupier was advised to carry out certain improvements. One was the dispensing with certain obsolete receptacles and to

provide an electric steam sterilising chest for the thorough and regular sterilising of all utensils; also for the provision in the boiler room of a wash-hand basin with a constant supply of hot water.

These suggestions were carried out and the last sample of ice cream taken from these premises proved fairly satisfactory.

As there is no standard for ice cream, it has been our practice to differentiate as far as possible between a good sample and a bad sample, taking into consideration the results of the bacteriological counts and the coliform organisms present.

A standard for ice cream is long overdue. Some standard should be set up so that the public may have a food which is manufactured and sold under some regulations, so as to ensure that it is good and wholesome.

SAUSAGE

One sample of sausage was taken and submitted for chemical analysis. The Public Analyst's report states: "This sample conforms to the Statutory Rules and Orders dated 3rd July, 1944."

MILK

There are 27 registered Milk Producers on the Register; these are set out in the following table:—

Wholesalers	11
Wholesalers and Retailers	6
Retailers	10

The number of milking cows kept is 331, or an average of 12 cows per farm. These 27 milk producers consist of one Tuberculin Tested producer; 12 producers with Accredited Licences, and 14 producers of ordinary raw milk. There are 50 dairies and milk shops in the area, also 39 retail producers of milk who deliver in this area but whose premises are outside this area.

During the year the number of samples of milk taken and submitted for bacteriological examination are as follows:—

Producers in the area	127
Retailers in the area	97
Retailers from outside the area	4

The results of the examination of these samples were as follows:—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Producers in the area	100	27
Retailers in the area	83	14
Retailers from outside the area	4	0

Samples of churn washings are also taken where samples of milk have proved to be unsatisfactory, and in all, nineteen samples of churn washings were taken and only one proved unsatisfactory.

One new cowshed has been erected during the year to house 22 cows. This shed was built in accordance with the specification submitted from this department. At three other farms, milking machines were installed.

In all cases where milk is found to be unsatisfactory and the same is produced outside our own area, a letter and a copy of the report is sent to the Sanitary Inspector in whose district the milk was produced.

Of the 14 unsatisfactory samples of milk taken from Retailers, the milk from 12 samples was produced outside the area.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDER, 1936

The following licences have been granted to sell the under-mentioned designated milks :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	4
Accredited	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised	...	...	...	3

SCHOOL MILK SUPPLY

The Schools in this area are supplied with pasteurised milk and is sold to the Education Authorities by a firm of milk contractors whose dairy is outside the area.

66 samples of milk were taken during the year and same were submitted for bacteriological examination on the same morning as the samples were obtained. 38 of these samples were found to be unsatisfactory; 4 samples had a large bacteriological count; in 26 samples there was presence of certain coliform organisms, in 1 sample there was both a large bacteriological count and certain coliform organisms, and 7 samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test. All these samples passed the phosphatase test. Where samples of milk have proved unsatisfactory, a letter and a copy of the report received from the Bacteriological Department was sent to the contractors and the licensing authority who granted the licence.

MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS

Contravention of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, Section 21	...	...	...	Fined 40/-
Contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14. 3 cases	...	...	...	Fined 40/- in each case

SHOPS ACTS 1912 TO 1938

Visits have been made to the various shops in the area and most of the shops are under-staffed. The sanitary and washing facilities were found to be satisfactory. Most shops are closing at 6 p.m. Sunday trading is almost at a standstill owing to food rationing. The chief trade on Sundays appeared to be the selling of sweets.

OFFICES

These premises are visited periodically and they are found to be in a clean and tidy condition; no overcrowding has been observed; lighting, both natural and artificial, has been found to be satisfactory.

Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities were found to be clean and satisfactory. 29 visits were made.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

78 visits have been made to factories, and the sanitary and washing facilities were found to be kept in a fairly clean condition. It was necessary in 10 cases to serve notices on occupiers to cause the interior walls of the sanitary conveniences to be limed and cleansed. In each case the work was carried out.

There are three out-workers on the register. Two are employed in toy-making and one in glove-making. All the premises have been inspected and found to be clean and satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES

Visits have been made to these premises and the following matters were reported upon and dealt with :—

Windows cleansed ...	...	...	...	1
Doors cleansed ...	...	...	...	1
Floors cleansed ...	...	...	...	2
Yards cleansed ...	...	...	...	1
Apparatus cleansed ...	...	...	...	2
Water closets provided ...	...	...	...	2
Obsolete ovens demolished ...	...	...	...	1
Records not kept ...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouse disinfested (Cockroaches) ...	...	...	...	1

SPoilBANKS

Observations have been made on the spoilbanks at the various Collieries in the area. It was necessary in two cases to serve notices for the abatement of the nuisance arising from these places. Certain firms have tackled the matter in a most satisfactory way, but others have not adopted any method to overcome this nuisance.

It is most essential that there shall be a satisfactory water supply available and the pipes shall be laid at the base of the conical tip, with small pipes branching off and facing the face of the tip and these shall be fitted with fine sprays. This spraying, to be a success, shall be continuous throughout the 24 hours of each day.

There is also the question of combustible matter finding its way on to these tips, such as broken pit props, coal and hot ashes from the boilers. These all tend to ignite and cause a most serious nuisance to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood near to these spoilbanks.

It is a great pity that some other method could not be adopted to dispose of this waste matter instead of spoiling the countryside with huge pyramids of waste material.

CONCLUSION

The work of the Department has proceeded in a very satisfactory manner. The sanitary state of the area has considerably improved. The inspection of food and premises where food is prepared, stored and sold has come in for a considerable amount of supervision, and I am glad to state no serious waste of food has been found and the premises generally have been kept up to a reasonable standard of cleanliness.

I desire to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, also the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Gapper, Chief Officials and the Staff of the Public Health Department, for the support they have given me during the past 12 months.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

FRED TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector

